
Office of Public Instruction



Special Education Division



The Division of Special Education is responsible for ensuring all students with disabilities, ages 3 through 18, are provided a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state laws. Montana's Special Education programs have received national recognition for excellence. The division's functions that provide ongoing assistance to public schools in meeting the special education obligations include:

- 🍏 Allocates more than \$36.4 million in state special education funds to districts and special education cooperatives for support of special education and related services to more than 19,000 Montana students with disabilities;
- 🍏 Allocates more than \$30.7 million in Federal IDEA funds for special education services;
- 🍏 Monitors school programs through site visits and provides technical assistance to ensure special education and related services focus on improving education for students with disabilities in compliance with IDEA regulations;
- 🍏 Initiates an ongoing informal dispute resolution process known as the Early Assistance Program (EAP) resulting in Montana having one of the lowest incidents of due process hearings in the United States;
- 🍏 Dispenses more than \$500,000 Federal IDEA discretionary funds for special education teacher training;
- 🍏 Provides assistance to parents and educators to meet the individual needs of each Montana student with disabilities; and
- 🍏 Collaborates with other state agencies to address the needs of Montana's students with disabilities.

